

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0692743

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 5 1978
DATE ENTERED	JAN 23 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Berdahl-Rølvaag House

AND/OR COMMON
Berdahl-Rølvaag House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1009 West 33rd Street--Augustana College Campus

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Sioux Falls

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1

VICINITY OF

STATE
South Dakota

CODE
046

COUNTY
Minnehaha

CODE
099

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER UNOCCUPIED

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Nordland Heritage Foundation

STREET & NUMBER
Augustana College, Humanities Box 2170

CITY, TOWN
Sioux Falls

VICINITY OF

STATE
South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Minnehaha County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Sioux Falls

STATE
South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN
Vermillion

STATE
South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>June 8, 1978</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jennie Berdahl Rølvaag House began as a story and one-half frame structure built in 1880-1881. Three years later, a lean-to addition was constructed followed after a like period of time by another one and one-half portion attached to the original north wall. This later construction almost doubled the size of the original house. No major changes were made since 1896. A small rear entry was added at an unknown date.

Overall the house consists of two long rectangles side by side, the main portion being covered by a medium gable open on its rectangles small end. The other, single story half roofed by a single slope, dropping to the outer wall. Open porches cover the structure's two main entries which are on the west and south facades. A single chimney appears on the ridgeline at the roof's center.

Except for six turned wood posts the structure is devoid of ornamentation. Interior woodwork is plain; the walls are plastered.

Because the house was deteriorating rapidly the Friends of Rølvaag Society moved the structure onto the Augustana College campus on June 8, 1978. It is situated in a prairie park, part of the BiCentennial Prairie Garden, a large field devoted to the propagation of native grasses and plants and maintained by the college Department of Botany.

The Society is now in the process of restoring the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Norwegian immigration
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Built 1880 or 1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nowhere in South Dakota is there a site preserved or marked or in any way identified with the Norwegian-American novelist G.E. Rølvaag. Yet today his novel Giants in the Earth, set in eastern South Dakota, continues to be widely read with the Harper edition the most successful in its Torchbook line. As a matter of fact, Rølvaag's work is the standard against which nearly all ethnic writing is judged and certainly the standard for novels that deal with the homesteading experience on the American frontier.

Rølvaag's most important frontier experiences were in South Dakota. In 1896 he arrived in South Dakota from Norway, and worked for the next three years on his uncle's farm near Elk Point. In 1899 he entered Augustana Academy, then in Canton, and studied the English language with great intensity there for two years. There followed four years at St. Olaf College and a years graduate work at the University of Oslo. In 1906 Rølvaag began teaching at St. Olaf College, continuing there until his death in 1931.

It was Augustana that Ole Rølvaag met Jennie Marie Berdahl, the daughter of a pioneer South Dakota family from near Garretson. During his junior year at St. Olaf, Rølvaag began a novel writing his future wife to tell her about it. On July 9, 1908, he and Jennie Marie Berdahl were married at Norway Church near Garretson, with the wedding reception and honeymoon at her parents' house. It is this house that still stands and which is proposed herein for preservation. "It was from her father and uncles especially that Rølvaag got much of the factual information which he recorded in his pioneer novels." (Ella Valborg Tweet, trans. (Rølvaag's daughter), "Introduction," The Third Life of Per Smevik, by O.E. Rølvaag, Minneapolis: Dillon Press, 1971, p. xv).

Einar Haugen writes that when "he married Jennie Berdahl, . . . he found in her father one of the pioneers to whom he could turn from first hand information" ("O.E. Rølvaag: The Man in His Work," in Ole Rølvaag, Artist and Cultural Leader, ed. Gerald Thorson, Northfield: St. Olaf College Press, 1975, p. 17).

The first versions of Giants in the Earth were published in Norwegian in 1924 and 1925, with an English translation to follow in 1927. Sequels to the novel were Peder Victorious (in translation in 1929) and Their Father's God (in translation in 1931).

O.E. Rølvaag's 100th year of birth was celebrated in April 1976, and that event was the occasion for the announcement of a formation of a friends of Rølvaag Society. Such a society will now be expected to take over the management of a restored Jennie Berdahl Rølvaag house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haugen, Einar. "O.E. Rølvaag: "The Man in His Work." In Ole Rølvaag, Artist and Cultural Leader, ed. Gerald Thorson (Northfield, Minnesota, 1975), pp. 15-24.
Rølvaag, Ole E. Giants in the Earth. New York: Perennial Library, Harper and Row, Publishers, 1965.
 Rølvaag, Ole E. The Third Life of Per Smevik. Trans. and ed. by Ella Valborg Tweet and Solveig Zempel. Minneapolis: Dillon, 1971, pp. vii-xxiv

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	14	682	1720	48	20	900	B				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					
C							D				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house is located at the base of a hill in the northern half of a field bound on the east by Prairie Avenue, the south by 37th street, the west by Grange Avenue and the North by 33rd Street, on the Augustana College Campus. The house lies approximately 300 feet directly west of 33rd Street. A small parking lot abutting the street lies between the street and the structure.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur R. Huseboe, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Humanities Division, Augustana College

DATE

February 1976

STREET & NUMBER

29th and Summit Streets

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Sioux Falls

STATE

South Dakota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John F. Tuttle

TITLE Director, Historical Preservation Center

DATE

November 21, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <i>Bill Tolson</i> _____ DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <i>1/23/79</i> _____ DATE <i>1/22/79</i> _____ _____ _____